CLAIMS

Therefore, having thus described the invention, at least the following is claimed:

1   1.   A system for preventing unauthorized use of property, the property

2   comprising:

3   an image capture system configured to capture an image of an object, and

4   further configured to generate data corresponding to the image of the captured image;

5   an image key, the image key corresponding to the object;

6   a processor configured to compare the image key with the data corresponding

7   to the captured image, and further configured to enable use of the property only if the

8   data corresponding to the captured image corresponds to the image key; and

9   a security timer configured to time a period of time such that the processor

10   compares the image key with the data corresponding to the captured image after the

11   period of time has elapsed.

1   2.   The system of claim 1, wherein the property comprises at least one

2   selected from a group consisting of a digital camera, a personal computer, a laptop

3   computer, a personal digital assistant, an automobile, a boat, an airplane and an

4   enclosure.

1   3.   The system of claim 1, wherein the security timer is a hardware

2   component coupled to the processor and configured to communicate a signal to the

3   processor indicating that the period of time has elapsed.

1   4.   The system of claim 1, further comprising a memory configured to

2   store the security timer as logic such that the processor executes the security timer

3   logic to time the period of time.

1   5.   The system of claim 1, further comprising a time adjuster configured

2   to adjust the period of time timed by the security timer.

1   6.   The system of claim 1, wherein the time adjuster comprises at least one
2 selected from a group consisting of at least one touch-sensitive button, at least one
3 pushbutton, a touch pad display and a menu displayed on a display.

1   7.   A method for providing security to property, the method comprising
2 the steps of:
3   receiving an image key, the image key corresponding to an image of an object;
4   receiving a captured image of the object from an image capture device;
5   timing a time period;
6   comparing the image key with the captured image of the object; and
7   enabling use of the property only if the image key corresponds to the captured
8 image of the object.

1   8.   The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of disabling the
2 property when the image key does not correspond to the captured image of the object,
3 wherein the step of disabling the property is performed at the conclusion of the time
4 period.

1   9.   The method of claim 7, wherein the property comprises at least one
2 selected from a group consisting of a digital camera, a personal computer, a laptop
3 computer, a personal digital assistant, an automobile, a boat, an airplane and an
4 enclosure.

1   10.   The method of claim 8, further comprising the steps of:
2   generating the image key from a second captured image of the object; and
3   saving the image key in a memory, the steps of generating and saving
4 performed before the steps of receiving, comparing and enabling.

1   11.   The method of claim 7, wherein the step of timing the time period
2 further includes the steps of:
3   communicating activation of the property to a security timer; and
4   communicating an end of timing period to a processor such that the processor
5 performs the steps of receiving, comparing and enabling.

1   12.   The method of claim 7, wherein the step of timing a time period further

2   includes the steps of:

3   executing a security timer logic residing in a memory with a processor; and

4   beginning the steps of receiving, comparing and enabling when the time period

5   has elapsed.

1   13.   The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of adjusting the

2   time period.

1   14.   A program for preventing the unauthorized use of property, the image

2   key corresponding to a stored digital image of an object, the program being stored as a

3   computer readable medium, the program comprising:

4   logic configured to retrieve an image key, the image key corresponding to a

5   stored digital image of an object;

6   logic configured to receive digital data corresponding to a most recently

7   captured image of the object;

8   logic configured to time a period of time;

9   logic configured to compare the most recently captured image of the object

10   and the image key; and

11   logic configured to enable the use of the property only if the most recently

12   captured image of the object corresponds to the image key.

1   15.   The program of claim 14, further comprising logic configured to

2   disable the property if the most recently captured image of the object does not

3   correspond to the image key when the period of time has elapsed.

1   16.   The program of claim 14, further comprising logic configured to time a

2   period of time such that the logic configured to enable is executed when the period of

3   time has elapsed.

1   17.   The program of claim 14, further comprising logic configured to

2   receive a time adjustment communication such that the period of time is adjusted.

1   18.   A method for providing security to property having an image capture

2 device, the method comprising the steps of:

3   capturing a first image of an object with the image capture device;

4   generating an image key, the image key corresponding to the first image of the

5 object;

6   capturing a second image of the object with the image capture device;

7   comparing the image key with the second image of the object; and

8   enabling use of the property only if the image key corresponds to the second

9 image of the object.

1   19.   The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of disabling the

2 property when the image key does not correspond to the captured image of the object.

1   20.   The method of claim 18, wherein the property having the image

2 capture device comprises at least one selected from a group consisting of a digital

3 camera, a personal computer, a laptop computer, a personal digital assistant, an

4 automobile, a boat, an airplane and an enclosure.

1   21.   The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of timing a time

2 period such that the steps of comparing and enabling are performed at the conclusion

3 of the time period.

1   22.   The method of claim 21, wherein the step of timing the time period

2 further includes the steps of:

3   communicating activation of the property to a security timer; and

4   communicating end of timing period to a processor such that the processor

5 performs the steps of comparing and enabling.

1   23.   The method of claim 21, wherein the step of timing further includes the

2 steps of:

3   executing a security timer logic residing in a memory with a processor; and

4   beginning the steps of comparing and enabling when the time period has

5 elapsed.

1   24.   The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of adjusting the

2   time period.